GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1514
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between the total demand and supply of pulses and oilseeds in the country;

(b) whether the Government have to import these commodities every year;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision to give minimum support prices to the farmers producing these two commodities to encourage them in accordance to the experience of providing minimum support prices for the production of wheat, paddy and other coarse grains in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to implement this policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The Working Group on Demand & Supply projections for IX Plan constituted by the Planning Commission has estimated the requirement of Pulses and Oilseeds for the year 1996-97 and for terminal year of IX Plan i.e. 2001-2002. Based on the report of the working group the difference between the total estimated demand and estimated supply of pulses and oilseeds during 1996-97 was as under:

(In million tonnes)

Item	Demand	Supply	Difference
Normatic Requirement For Pulses	15.30	14.25	-1.05
Normatic Requirement For Oilseeds	19.40	24.38	+4.98
Behaviourstic Requirement For Pulses	15.50	14.25	-1.35
Behaviourstic Requirement For Oilseeds	20.00	24.38	+4.38

The working group has also given the estimated demand of these commodities during 2001-2002 as given below:

Demand Projections (Million tonnes) for IX Plan (2001-2002)

Normatic 17.20
Requirement
For Pulses

Normatic 21.20
Requirement
For Oilseeds

Behaviourstic 19.50 I
Requirement I Based on GDP growth rate of 6%
For Pulses I
I
Behaviourstic 25.00 I
Requirement
For Oilseeds

The supply projections are not yet available.

(b): The production of pulses & oilseeds is fluctuating year to year and depends upon vagaries of whether and the import of these commodities are made on the basis of gap between demand and supply and to make available these commodities to the consumers at a reasonable price.

(c)to(e): Like wheat, paddy and other coarse grains, pulses & oilseeds are also covered under the Minimum Support Prices operation. NAFED is the central nodalagency to carry out the purchase operation of pulses & oilseeds on minimum support prices in case the market prices of these commodities fall below the minimum support prices in order to protect the interest of the growers.